Based on the announcement made by the Government of India, the Banks have been advised by the Reserve Bank of India and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) to defer the interest due on the Kharif-2002 crop loans in such a way that the first instalment of interest repayment would be 20% of the deferred interest. This instalment of deferred interest which is to be waived by Banks, will be reimbursed by Government of India in the case of all farmers. The banks have also been advised not to charge any interest on the deferred interest.

Supplying improved seeds

575. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the bad quality of seeds is responsible for low production of edible oils, vegetables, fruits, fodder and feed crops;

(b) if so, how far low production is responsible for increased import edible oils; and

(c) what effective steps are being taken to supply improved quality of seeds and to spread genetic and legal knowledge in rural and tribal areas to boost production of quality seeds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) It will not be correct to generalize that there is an overall decline in productivity in the relevant items. In any case, the level of agricultural production depends on a large number of factors such as production technology, quality of inputs, irrigation, weather conditions, disease and pests and cost of credit etc.

(b) The increase import of edible oil is attributable to several factors including tariff structure, global competition and the prevailing international rates etc.

(c) Supply of quality seeds and dissemination of relevant information is an integral part of many schemes of the Ministry mention may, in particular, be invited to the following:

(i) Oilseeds production programme.

(ii) Macro Management of agriculture through state work plan.

(iii) National Horticulture Board Scheme.

(iv) Agri-clinic scheme.

(v) Quality control arrangements on seeds.

KVKs in Uttaranchal

†576. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of districts of Uttaranchal where Krishi Vigyan Kendras have not been set up so far;

(b) whether the Krishi Vigyan Kendras have been planned to be set up in the said districts during the financial years 2003-04 and 2004-05; and

(c) if so, the year-wise details of the places where these centres are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) There are 10 districts of Uttaranchal where Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK) have not been set up so far. These are: Almora, Bageshwar, Chamoli, Dehradun, Haridwar, Pauri Garhwal, Pithoragarh, Rudra Prayag, Udhamsingh Nagar and Uttarkashi.

(b) and (c) The KVKs for the above districts are yet to be considered. The location of the KVK is decided on the basis of availability of adequate land and other infrastructural facilities for the purpose.

Central schemes in Maharashtra

577. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the Centrally sponsored schemes formulated and implemented in Maharashtra during the current financial year for increasing the agriculture production; and

(b) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government for greater rural infrastructure investment and enhanced assistance to

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.